

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PLANT DELEGATE CONFERENCE IN RIMINI

REF: ROME A-226, APRIL 17, 1974

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. ABOUT 1200 DELEGATES CHOSEN FROM INDUSTRIAL PLANT COUNCIL MET IN RIMINI MAY 29-31 WITH MOST OF THE TOP LEADERSHIP OF CGIL, CISL, AND UIL. THE MEETING, WHICH WAS A FOLLOW-UP TO A SIMILAR CONVENTION HELD LAST YEAR (SEE REFAIR), WAS ORIGINALLY TO BE HELD LAST FALL IN ORDER TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF THE FEDERATION OF THE THREE CONFEDERATIONS (CCU). THE FALL MEETING WAS POSTPONED AND THE SUBJECT CONFERENCE WAS FINALLY HELD WITH MUCH LESS FANFARE THAN ORIGINALLY ANTICIPATED DUE TO THE PERSISTENCE OF STRONG DIFFERENCES WITHIN CISL AND UIL OVER THE LABOR UNITY QUESTION IN PARTICULAR AND LABOR STRATEGY IN GENERAL. END SUMMARY.

2. THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISION TAKEN AT THE MEETING WAS THE ESTABLISHMENT FOR THE FIRST TIME OF A SERIES OF COMMITTEES TO COORDINATE LABOR UNION STRATEGY BETWEEN CATEGORY UNIONS AND

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CCU FEDERATION REPRESENTATIVES. THE FIRST COORDINATING COMMITTEE

MEETING IS TO TAKE PLACE ON JUNE 6 TO DISCUSS THE UPCOMING NATIONAL CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS INVOLVING MORE THAN FOUR MILLION ITALIAN WORKERS WHICH WILL BEGIN AFTER THE AUGUST HOLIDAYS. THE JUNE 6 MEETING WILL ALSO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL MADE AT RIMINI TO POSTPONE FURTHER GENERAL STRIKE ACTION UNTIL AFTER THE JUNE 15-16 REGIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ELECTIONS. THE SUGGESTION WAS MADE BY SOME DELEGATES THAT EXCESSIVE STRIKE ACTION AT THIS TIME PLAYS INTO THE HANDS OF THE RIGHT WING OF THE ITALIAN POLITICAL ELECTORATE.

3. IN THE GENERAL MOTIONS THE ROLE WHICH ITALIAN LABOR MOVEMENT HAS TENDED TO ASSUME AS INTERLOCUTOR ON IMPORTANT NATIONAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC QUESTIONS WAS AFFIRMED. IN THIS CONNECTION THE DELEGATES REITERATED THEIR INTENTION TO PRESS FOR:

A) MANAGEMENT REFORM OF STATE OWNED ENTERPRISES; B) REFORM OF THE COUNTRY'S TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM; C) THE DEVELOPMENT OF "A NEW ENERGY POLICY"; D) RENEWAL OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR; E) REFINANCING OF PUBLIC WORKS AND LOW COST HOUSING; F) RENEWED ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE MEZZOGIORNO, PARTICULARLY IN CAMPANIA, SICILY, CALABRIA, SARDINIA, PUGLIA AND BASILICATA.

4. COMMENT: THE THREE CONFEDERATIONS (CGIL, CISL, AND UIL) HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE SINCE 1969 TO REACH AGREEMENT ON HOW PLANT COUNCIL DELEGATIONS ARE SELECTED. AS A CONSEQUENCE, FACTORY COUNCILS TEND TO HAVE A DYNAMIC OF THEIR OWN AND FREQUENTLY TEND TO BE MORE RADICAL THAN ANY OF THE THREE CONFEDERATIONS. THE TWO MEETINGS WHICH HAVE NOW BEEN HELD IN RIMINI HAVE HAD AS ONE OF THEIR MAJOR GOALS THE BRIDGING OF THIS GAP BETWEEN LABOR RANK AND FILE AND UNION LEADERSHIP. AS WITH THE FIRST MEETING, LITTLE PROGRESS SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN MADE IN THIS REGARD. THE FACT THAT CISL MINORITY LEADER PIERRE CARNITI FAILED TO GET THE DELEGATES TO CONCENTRATE ON A FEW MAJOR ISSUES RATHER THAN THE EXTENSIVE LIST MENTIONED ABOVE CONFIRMS THAT THE UNIONS STILL DO NOT HAVE FULL CONTROL OVER THE FACTORY COUNCILS. FOR THIS AND OTHER REASONS, INCLUDING THE NONPARTICIPATION OF THE CISL MINORITY AND UIL SECRETARY GENERAL VANNI, DISCUSSION OF THE LABOR UNITY ISSUE WAS INCONCLUSIVE. VOLPE

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